County: Region-wide

Applicant: University of California, Berkeley

Project Title: Web-based Tools and Training Workshops for Evaluating Fuel Treatment Options in the Sierra Nevada Region

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the project is to develop and provide guidance on stand-level fuel treatments in the Sierra Nevada region using web-based tools and a series of training workshops held at four separate locations in the region.

PROJECT SCOPE

Forest structure and species composition in many Sierra Nevada coniferous forests have been altered through fire exclusion, past and ongoing harvesting practices, and livestock grazing. These changes concern fire managers because the increased fuel loads and altered forest structure have made many forests vulnerable to fire severities outside of desired conditions, which can negatively affect watersheds. Debate over the efficacy of treatments utilized to modify vegetation structure and fuel loads in ways that alter fire behavior is ongoing at local, state, and national levels. This project would summarize scientific principals that can be applied to design effective fuel treatments. The audience for this information would be Fire Safe Councils and other wildland fire related groups in California. One product will be a hard-copy summary of this information, another will be a website that will allow users to assess current fire hazards and how treatments can modify fire hazards -- the website will include a calculator and other processing to assist users. In addition, we will hold four regional workshops throughout the Sierra Nevada where this information will be presented and discussed. No other support is required to complete this project.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Not applicable.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Summarize fire hazard literature, prepare hard-copy summary of characteristics of effective fuel treatments for users.	03/01/09-5/30/09

Build NEXUS interface on Center for Fire Research and Outreach web site, develop surface and crown fuel calculators.	03/01/09-8/31/09
Six-month progress report.	09/01/09
Begin developing training workshop materials and scheduling workshops. Finish website.	09/01/09-10/31/09
Add series of examples to website to assist users. Finalize workshop materials.	11/1/09-12/31/09
Series of four workshops to be held in locations throughout the Sierras -- one on the East side, one in the north, one in the central Sierras, and one in the south.	**11/1/09-4/1/10**
Six-month progress report.	**03/01/10**
Incorporate feedback from workshops into web-based tools.	**03/01/10**
Final project report.	**04/01/10**

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Personnel	$166,000
Fringe benefits	$38,200
Supplies and expenses	$8,000
Travel	$5,000
Total Direct Cost	$217,200
Administrative Costs (15%)	$32,600
	$
	$
	$
	$
SNC GRANT TOTAL	$249,800